APPENDIX 'B'

ACCOUNT OF SERVICES RENDERED
BY 17 RAJPUT IN TUENSANG
FRONTIER DIVISION

120 (2)

In early AUG 55 the situation in SOUTH FRONTIER DIVISION had deteriorated considerably. The ASSAM RIFLES detachments in SEMA Hills were not only unable to clear the area but were being continuously attacked. The hostiles had formed a strong base at KHEKIYO. They were 400 strong and were armed with 9 LMGs, 200 Rifles, stens, grenades and shot guns. Their defences were tactically sited. All approaches were covered with thick punjies upto two miles from their base. The main approaches were barbed by 12 feet wide and 8 feet deep ditches. Many bunkers, a 5feet high stone wall with loopholes to fire from and a stone stockade were also constructed.

17 RAJPUT was given the task of destroying the hostiles base and clearing the SEMA Hills of armed hostiles. The battalion marched 120 miles in 6 days, each man carrying 60 lbs on him. Last 15 miles were over a difficult Naga track with very stiff gradient. Due to lack of civilian labour troops had to carry their ammunitions and stores for long distances over difficult tracks.

Unobserved movement of troops during day was not possible. So all tactical moves towards the hostiles positions were carried out at night. A well planned and executed three phased night attack reduced the fanatical hostile positions. This night operation saved considerable number of casualties to the troops as the hostile defences appeared impregnable and day light attack would proved extremely costly. The hostiles suffered 35 killed and a similar number wounded. The battalion had 3 other ranks casualties two of which were fatal. Having been heartened by early inactivities the hostiles gave a pitched battle giving the troops an opportunity to cause heavy losses and

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smash their spirit. This single action has been greatl instrumental in breaking their organisation and restoring peace in TUENSANG FRONTIER DIVISION.

The success of this operation over such a difficult terrain against fanatical hostiles had been mainly due to the high standard of physical fitness of the unit and due to the fact that operation was carried out under cover of darkness.